REMARKS

Claims 1 to 16 and 18 are pending in this application of which claims 1, 5, 9, and 14 are the independent claims. Favorable reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

Applicants thank the Examiner for conducting an interview on Tuesday, September 18, 2007. Applicants indicated that the Ohta reference taught a data accumulation unit that received only encryption data. The Examiner indicated that she interpreted "subject only to authentication" recited in the independent claims to include ciphered data. Applicants respectfully disagree; however, to further prosecution Applicants have amended the independent claims to recite "subject only to authentication and not to ciphering."

Claims 1 to 18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious by Ohta et al. (U.S. Patent Application Publication Number 2002/0083317 hereinafter "Ohta") in view of Platko et al. (U.S. Patent Number 6,363,444 hereinafter "Platko").

Amended claim 1 is directed to a processor that includes an authentication buffer is configured to store authentication data including ciphered-network-packet data subject to authentication, network packet data subject only to authentication and not to ciphering and network packet data subject to ciphering and authentication. The authentication buffer includes a

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circular first-in-first-out (FIFO) arrangement. The processor also includes at least one

authentication core coupled to the authentication buffer to authenticate the authentication data

from the authentication buffer.

The applied art is not understood to disclose or to suggest the foregoing features of

claim 1. In particular, Ohta does not disclose or suggest that the authentication buffer is

configured to store authentication data including ciphered-network-packet data subject to

authentication, network packet data subject only to authentication and not to ciphering and

network packet data subject to ciphering and authentication (emphasis added, see page 5, lines

16 to 18).

Ohta discloses a data block accumulation units 304a and 304b which are functionally the

same as data accumulation unit 103 (see FIG. 2 and paragraph [0105] of Ohta). The data

accumulation unit 103 receives data only subject to encryption, because the data accumulation

unit is directly coupled to the encryption processing unit 102 to receive encryption data only (see

FIGS. 2 and 3 and paragraph [0055] of Ohta). Therefore, Ohta does not disclose or suggest that

the authentication buffer is configured to store authentication data including ciphered-network-

packet data subject to authentication, network packet data subject only to authentication and not

to ciphering and network packet data subject to ciphering and authentication.

Platko discloses a FIFO buffer 34 that is connected to an encryption processor 32 (see

FIG. 4 of Platko). Thus, FIFO buffer 34 receives data that is all subject to ciphering by the

encryption processor 32 because the encryption processor 32 performs "data ecncrption, integrity

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verification and authentication functions" see column 6, line 67 to column 7 line 15). Therefore, Platko does not disclose or suggest that the authentication buffer is configured to store authentication data including ciphered-network-packet data subject to authentication, network packet data subject only to authentication and not to ciphering and network packet data subject to ciphering and authentication.

Accordingly, for at least the reasons indicated above, even if Platko were combined with Ohto, the resulting hypothetical combination would not disclose or suggest that the authentication buffer is configured to store authentication data including ciphered-network-packet data subject to authentication, network packet data subject only to authentication and not to ciphering and network packet data subject to ciphering and authentication. For at least this reason, claim 1 is believed to be allowable.

Independent claims 5, 9 and 14 having corresponding features to claim 1. Applicants submit the cited references should also be withdrawn with respect to claims 5, 9 and 14 for at least the same reasons as claim 1.

For at least the foregoing reasons, Applicants request withdrawal of the art rejections.

Applicants submit that all dependent claims now depend on allowable independent claims.

It is believed that all of the pending claims have been addressed. However, the absence of a reply to a specific rejection, issue or comment does not signify agreement with or concession of that rejection, issue or comment. In addition, because the arguments made above

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may not be exhaustive, there may be reasons for withdrawing the prior art cited with regards to any or all pending claims (or other claims) that have not been expressed. Finally, nothing in this paper should be construed as intent to concede any issue with regard to any claim, except as specifically stated in this paper, and the amendment of any claim does not necessarily signify concession of unpatentability of the claim prior to its amendment.

Applicants submit that the entire application is now in condition for allowance. Such action is respectfully requested at the Examiner's earliest convenience.
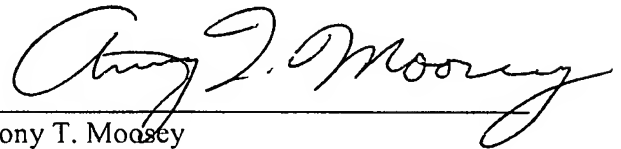
All correspondence should be directed to the address below. Applicants' attorney can be reached by telephone at (781) 401-9988 ext. 123.

No fee is believed to be due for this Response; however, if any fees are due, please apply such fees to Deposit Account No. 50-0845 referencing Attorney Docket: INTEL-019PUS.

Respectfully submitted,

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